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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/819,434	03/28/2001	Kiwamu Inui	10873.679US01	2708

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EXAMINER

CHANAY, CAROL DIANE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1745	6

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/819,434	INUI ET AL.
	Examiner Carol Chaney	Art Unit 1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph are withdrawn in view of applicants' comments filed 16 February 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ovshinsky et al., WO 98/31959 for reasons of record. For convenience, the rejection is repeated below:

Ovshinsky et al. disclose a fluid-cooled battery pack system, including a battery pack case with coolant inlet and outlet means, and at least one battery pack module placed in the case. The modules are formed of bundled, electrically connected, batteries. The modules are placed within the case so that flow channels for the coolant are formed along at least one surface of the batteries. Coolant transport means are provided. (Note page 42, claim 1.) With regards to applicants' claims 2 and 3, the width of the coolant flow channels disclosed by Ovshinsky et al. are optimally sized to allow for maximum heat transfer through convective, conductive and radiative heat transfer mechanisms. (Note page 29, line 30-page 30, line 9.) Thus, the channels are sized to maintain temperature variations within a given range, and the battery module container materials are accounted for in calculating heat transfer mechanisms. With

regards to applicants' claim 4, the a polymer (i.e. resin) material may be used for the battery case disclosed by Ovshinsky et al. (Note Ovshinsky et al., page 14, lines 20-21.) With regards to applicants' claims 5-9, Figure 15 and page 26, lines 22-32 of the Ovshinsky et al. patent disclose spacers between battery modules which serve as flow channels. With regards to applicants' claim 10, Ovshinsky et al. disclose battery pack cases containing modules which are spaced away from the case walls. (Ovshinsky et al., page 29, lines 25-32.) The spacings form upper and upper and lower cooling chambers. With regards to applicants' claim 11, Ovshinsky et al. disclose a pump, which will cause a difference in pressure, as a coolant transport means. (Ovshinsky et al., page 43, lines 25-26.) The battery pack system disclosed by Ovshinsky et al. may maintain a temperature below 45°C, and a variation of temperature between modules of less than 8°C. (Ovshinsky et al., page 44, lines 29-30 and page 45, lines 1-3.) Thus, applicants' claim 12 is anticipated. The Ovshinsky et al. battery pack system is designed to use electrically insulating coolant, which may be either gaseous or liquid, and is preferably air. A forced-air blower, or fan may be used to transport coolant. (Ovshinsky et al., page 30, lines 21-31.) The fan may be placed at either the coolant inlet or the coolant outlet. (Ovshinsky et al., page 43, lines 7-16.) Thus, applicants' claims 13-18 are also anticipated.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 16 December 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants assert Ovshinsky et al. do not disclose the

relationship recited in applicants' claim 1 where a target width is set so that a variation in temperature between the battery modules caused by a fabrication tolerance relative to the target width is maintained within a predetermined range and all the battery modules have a predetermined temperature or less when the coolant flows through. However, it is noted that an aspect of the Ovshinsky et al. invention maintains the temperatures of battery modules within a given range. See, for example, claims 21 and 22 on pages 44 and 45 of the Ovshinsky et al. specification. The requirements that the Ovshinsky et al. batteries are maintained below 45 °C (claim 21) and have a variation between modules of less than 8 °C (claim 22) set target temperatures. Clearly, manufacture of batteries according to the Ovshinsky et al. invention will set parameters for size and placement of battery modules, as well as tolerances for these parameters. Thus, a target width parameter and allowable variation of the target width parameter will need to be set in a manner to meet the limitations of the Ovshinsky et al. claims 21 and 22.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol Chaney whose telephone number is (703) 305-3777. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 703-308-2383. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


Carol Chaney
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1745

cc

April 19, 2003